the priority sector. Advocates are eligible for inclusion as professional and self-employed persons under the priority sector. Advances to professional and self-employed persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and women are provided at lower rates of interest than others in the same catogory.

Modernisation of Steel Plants

1205. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of steel plants which have been modernised during the last Five Year Plan period and what are the details of proposal for commissioning of new plants during the current financial year; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to monitor the modernisation schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) While the modernisation plan in respect of any of the public sector integrated steel plants has not been completed during the VII Plan period, Tata Iron & Steel Co. completed Phase-II of its modernisation plan in 1989. No new plant has been nor is likely to be commissioned during the current financial year.

(b) A system of periodical monitoring of progress of implementation of modernisation schemes has been set up with regular monitoring at the plant level as well as in SAIL's Corporate Office. In addition, in the Government monthly monitoring in the Department of Steel and Ministry of Programme Implementation, besides the Quarterly review by Steel & Mines Minister is also undertaken.

Reconstitution of SAIL Board

1206. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reconstitute the Board of Directors of SAIL for its structural reform; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Government would consider reconstitution of Board of Directors of SAIL upon evolution of a specific proposal, details of which are yet to be worked out.

Appointment of Chairman of the Brahmaputra Board

1207. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no full time Chairman in the Brahmaputra Board at present; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The Secretary of the North Eastern Council has been appointed as Chairman of the Brahmaputra Board for administrative convenience.

Clearance of Dehang and Subansiri dam projects

1208. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the Brahmaputra Board for construction of the Dehang and the Subansiri dams have been awaiting approval of the Central Government since 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to implement these recommendations in the near future for control of floods in Assam;